

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, July 31, 2003

Chair Herro called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Ken Herro (Chair), Mareth Kipp, Sandy Wolff, Paul Pronold, and Alicia Silva. Pronold left the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Carl Seitz arrived at 1:57 p.m. **Absent:** Jim Jeskewitz.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Legislative Policy Advisor Dave Krahn, Waukesha Training Center Coordinator of Administrative Services Susan Koch, Waukesha Training Center Director Greg Urban, Addiction Resource Council, Inc. Executive Director Claudia Roska, Clinical Services Manager Mike DeMares, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Ernie Messinger, and County Board Supervisor Kathleen Cummings.

Approve Minutes of July 10, 2003

MOTION: Kipp moved, second by Silva to approve the minutes of July 10. Motion carried 5-0.

Tour the Waukesha Training Center

Urban gave a brief summary of the history and budget of the Training Center which was established in 1983. The Center's programs and services are designed to help developmentally disabled workers develop skills, increase their level of work experience and gain the means to seek and maintain meaningful employment. About 40% or 150 individuals work out of the Center, 60 to 70 work at Save the Planet, and the balance of 250 total workers work elsewhere. He stated that for every \$1 paid in salary, the return to the community is about \$13. Finally, he said it was important to note that 75% of the clients served at the Center have more than one disability.

Urban and staff gave a tour of the training center. Program areas include vocational evaluation, training services, the Life Enhancement Opportunities Program, and placement services. Commercial services include contracted sales, Protect the Planet Recycling Services, Grimebusters Cleaning Services, commercial lawn maintenance, and the Baker's Apprentice food service program.

Pronold left the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

Urban said about 48% of their budget last year, which totaled \$1.2 million, was funded by the County. Other funding sources include the United Way, Wisconsin Transitional and Vocational Rehabilitation, Community Development Block Grant, etc. About 30 developmentally disabled individuals each year leave the Center for other work. The Center employs about 250 individuals each year. To answer Kipp's question, Urban said each worker's pay is based on productivity (piece work). To answer Esler's question, Urban said the center employs 34 full-time workers (non developmentally disabled).

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

August 14th

Seitz arrived at 1:57 p.m.

Review Correspondence

Copies of the October 9 and 10 Health & Human Services Committee agendas (budget review) were distributed. Herro passed around a letter from a constituent, Bill Stone, who supports the mental health parity legislation.

Legislative Update

Krahn distributed copies of "2003 State Legislation – Health & Human Services" dated 7/31/03. Krahn advised that nothing much has changed since the last committee meeting with regards to human services issues. Act 33, also known as the budget bill, was partially vetoed. Krahn said we're anxiously awaiting to see what the State Senate will do when they call their veto override session which could be in a couple of weeks or so, in particular, the property tax freeze issue.

Krahn said with regards to human services, we had requested some vetoes and some were granted. This includes the Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information Systems. We had asked for a veto of the 50% county share for payment of SACWIS and this is now back down to 33%. The governor also vetoed the Juvenile Correctional Services Program revenue deficit proposal. This would have enabled the Department of Corrections to automatically increase rates to counties if the cost became more than what they had estimated at budget time.

Discuss Mental Health Parity Legislation

Roska, an advocate for AODA dependencies, strongly supports the legislation. She said with limitations on current private health insurance plans, the average treatment given to an individual addict is six one-hour outpatient sessions. This does not adequately address or intervene with the disease which is why relapse is so common. Because of those limitations, state and local governments are now paying for about two-thirds of all addiction treatments.

Krahn said mental health parity legislation has picked up more co-sponsors on the federal level. It's now stuck in committee. The President had indicated he would sign mental health parity legislation so the momentum is there. For us in Wisconsin, we could say this doesn't get us all the way there, but it's a step in the right direction. Krahn asked that this committee make a formal recommendation to the Executive Committee as to support or non-support of the legislation. Copies of 2003 SB 71 and 72 were distributed.

DeMares said SB 71 defines two types of medical procedures: diagnostic testing and treatment with prescription drugs. Most insurance companies in the state have mandated limits for mental health and AODA. Most insurance companies do not cover prescription drugs and diagnostic testing as part of the mandated benefit which is now capped at \$7,000 per year. SB 71 defines that prescription drugs and diagnostic testing would not be capped and would be in addition to the \$7,000 per year. Krahn said advocates for the legislation have stated that for every \$1 spent today, \$7 will be saved in the long run.

DeMares went on to explain SB 72. Currently, most insurance companies must provide the \$7,000. Once someone hits that \$7,000 cap the insurance companies can stop reimbursing providers. Most private providers will no longer see that client and then they come to the County for services. This bill changes the \$7,000 to \$16,800 which is basically a cost of living increase from 1985 to 2004. DeMares said if you include SB 71, you can count prescription drugs and diagnostic testing towards the \$16,800.

Krahn said there was a hearing on both of these bills but no vote yet. He said several agencies and counties, including Dane, Kenosha, and Outagamie, support the bills. Roska said the rumor exists that true parity would increase health insurance costs. However, research shows quite the opposite and true treatment will decrease costs in the long run. Herro asked how much will this cost the County? DeMares said he talked with Employee Benefits Administrator Pete Hans who said County Administration is taking a neutral stance on this legislation and that they have not yet heard from our insurance company with regards to costs. DeMares said these are not drastic increases. He sees it in their daily operations whereby people hit the cap and they come to the County for services. This is a big concern when it comes to kids. They often don't get the proper treatment and then end up in the child welfare or juvenile justice systems. Esler commented on anxiety and nervous disorders which is a rapidly growing and emerging

population. This is already affecting 15 to 20 million Americans. He said under SB 71, the diagnosis is not covered under medical insurance.

MOTION: Kipp moved, second by Wolff to recommend to the Executive Committee support of 2003 SB 71 and SB 72. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss Future Agenda Items

The following items were added to the Health & Human Services Committee's future agenda items list.

- In-Depth Analysis of the Long Term Care and Developmental Disabilities Budgets Including Funding Sources, Populations, and the Agencies Providing Services (Esler, Herro)
- Regular Updates on the Criminal Justice Task Force (Kipp)
- Discussions with State Legislators on Various Human Services Concerns (Herro)
- Discuss State Computer Programs / Systems Concerns with Information Systems and Health & Human Services Staff (Messinger)
- Economic Impact of the Regulated Child Care Industry (Esler)
- Section 330 Federally Funded Health Centers (Esler)
- Meet at the Workforce Development Center; Update on W-2 (Herro)

Verbal Summary of the Health & Human Services Board's Budget Meetings of July 24 and 28

Esler, who attended the Health & Human Services Board's most recent budget review meeting, discussed this issue. Information on 2004 budget recommendations for the Health & Human Services Department, including the board's prioritization list, was distributed. Their first priority being cost to continue. The board's draft budget will be submitted to the County Executive. Esler said the draft 2004 budget for the department includes an expenditure increase of \$3.8 million and a \$900,000 tax levy increase. It appears to be a cost to continue budget. However, if the Governor's property tax freeze veto gets overturned we might be looking at a different budget scenario for 2004. On the other hand, a freeze may not have much of an impact. Staff said about \$50,000 of the \$900,000 increase will be used to pay for an increase in prescription drug costs. Residential placement costs are also increasing. The largest revenue increase in the budget is in the Long Term Care area and is due to additional Medicaid waiver monies to help keep people out of nursing homes as well as additional brain injury waiver funds.

MOTION: Kipp moved, second by Seitz to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Silva
Secretary